

Please cancel claims ~~17-20~~ without prejudice. These claims were submitted by way of the First Preliminary Amendment filed 15 August 2001.

Please add new claims 21-24 as follows:

21. (New) A fiber optic network including the node of claim 2 and further including a second node, the second node including a first device for converting a first optical signal at a first frequency carried by the network into a first electrical signal, the second node further including a second device for demodulating first information from the first electrical signal modulated on the first optical signal, the second node further including a third device for modulating second information on a second electrical signal, and the second node further including a fourth device for converting the second information modulated on the second electrical signal into a second optical signal at the first frequency.

22. (New) A fiber optic network including the node of claim 3 and further including a second node, the second node including a first device for converting a first optical signal at a first frequency carried by the network into a first electrical signal, the second node further including a second device for demodulating first information from the first electrical signal modulated on the first optical signal, the second node further including a third device for modulating second information on a second electrical signal, and the second node further including a fourth device for converting the second information modulated on the second electrical signal into a second optical signal at the first frequency.

23. (New) A fiber optic network including the node of claim 4 and further including a second node, the second node including a first device for converting a first optical signal at a first frequency carried by the network into a first electrical signal, the second node further including a second device for demodulating first information from the first electrical signal modulated on the first optical signal, the second node further including a third device for modulating second information on a second electrical signal, and the second node further including a fourth device for converting the second information modulated on the second electrical signal into a second optical signal at the first frequency.

24. (New) A fiber optic network including the node of claim 5 and further including a second node, the second node including a first device for converting a first optical signal at a first frequency carried by the network into a first electrical signal, the second node

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